

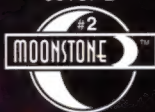
THE

PHANTOM

ANNUAL

TM

cover B



guest-starring

MANDRAKE
the magician

THE PHANTOM

ANNUAL

"Concrete Jungle"

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& KEVIN GREVIOUX

art: SAMICLER GONÇALVES

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limited cover C: NICK DERINGTON

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NEW YORK



SSMAKK!
SSMAKK!

PLEASE.
NO MORE...



YOU WERE PAID A
LOT OF MONEY FOR
THE LOCATION OF THE
AHEEDAH, MR. OKEMBE.

AND WHEN
MR. LOCKE PAYS
GOOD MONEY -

"HE EXPECTS
RESULTS.



B-BUT I AM
TELLING YOU --
ONLY THE ELDERS OF
MY TRIBE KNOW WHERE TO
PICK THE AHEEDAH, AND THEY
WILL NOT ALLOW ME TO
BRING IN OUTSIDERS.

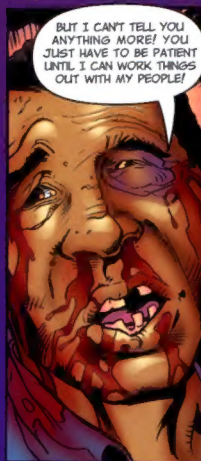
IS THAT
RIGHT?



SEE...

USUALLY, I'M A BIT
MORE "IN YOUR FACE".
SOMEBODY DOESN'T COOPERATE.
WE TALK ABOUT IT. AND I CAN
BE QUITE CONVINCING.

ISN'T THAT
RIGHT, BOYS?





HOURS LATER



WHERE'VE YOU BEEN?

WHAT ARE YOU KIDDING ME? I GOT A WIFE WHO NEEDS THE GARBAGE OUT BEFORE EIGHT, FOUR KIDS IN SCHOOL AND A DOG TO WALK. ALL THAT DONE BETWEEN THE TIME IT TAKES ME TO BRUSH AND SPT.



NOW YOU SEE WHY I STAY SINGLE.

HEY, DIFFERENT STROKES, RIGHT?

SO WHAT'VE WE GOT?



ONE BLACK MALE, FLAT AS A PANCAKE. DID A PETER PAN OFF THE TENTH FLOOR ONTO A HACK.

TALK ABOUT PENNES FROM HEAVEN.



WE GOT A NAME?

DAJAN OKEMBE - OKOMBA - SOMETHING LIKE THAT.



"OKEMBE"? WHAT IS HE? AFRICAN?

NO, HE'S SCANDINAVIAN. WHAT DO YOU THINK?

LIPSTARS WE SAW SPECKS OF BLOOD IN A TWENTY-FOOT RADIUS AROUND A CHAIR.

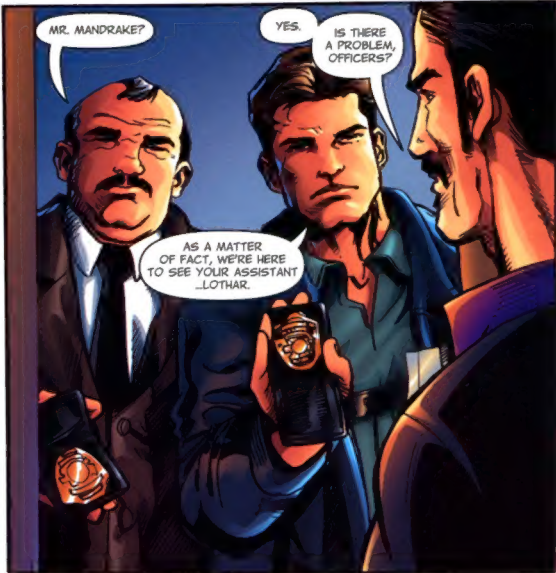


AND NOW, I
WILL UTTER THE
MAGIC WORD --

-- ABRACADABRA!



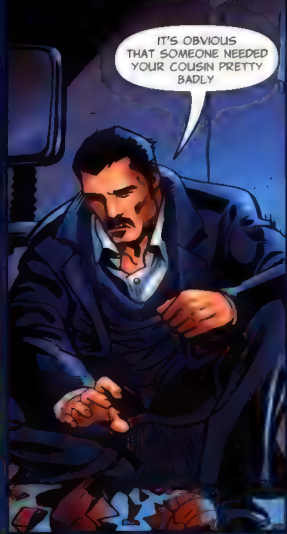




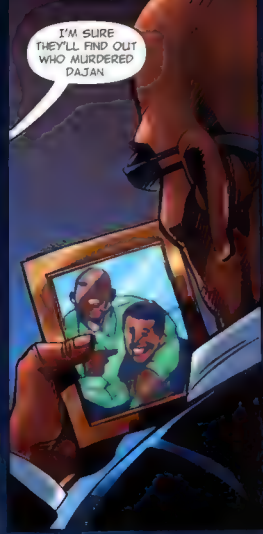




YOU SHOULD
LET THE POLICE
HANDLE THIS,
LOTHAR



IT'S OBVIOUS
THAT SOMEONE NEEDED
YOUR COUSIN PRETTY
BADLY



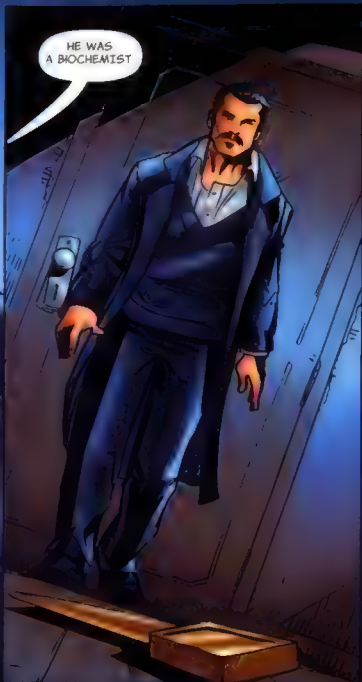
I'M SURE
THEY'LL FIND OUT
WHO MURDERED
DAJAN



THIS IS AMERICA
A POOR IMMIGRANT
LIKE DAJAN WON'T
GET A SECOND
THOUGHT



YOU DON'T
HAVE TO STAY
THIS IS A FAMILY
MATTER





DO YOU KNOW
WHAT HE WAS
WORKING ON?

LOTS
OF THINGS~

BACK IN AFRICA,
THERE ARE MANY PLANTS
THE OUTSIDE WORLD HAS
NEVER EVEN SEEN.

FLORA THAT
YIELDS REMEDIES THAT
HAVE BEEN IN USE IN
MY TRIBE FOR
CENTURIES.

I REMEMBER HIM
TELLING ME THAT HE
WAS HAVING TROUBLE WITH
FINANCING A NEW PROJECT
HE WAS WORKING ON.

WHAT
WAS THAT?

KALLA ROOT

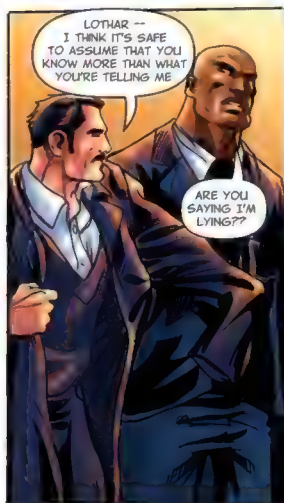
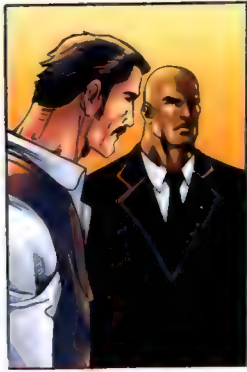
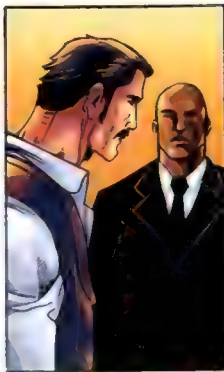
IT'S WHAT YOU
WOULD CALL A PANACEA.
YOU GET A COLD, STOMACH FLU
OR A BUMP ON THE HEAD, CHEW
ON THE ROOT, AND YOU'RE
AS GOOD AS NEW.

WHY DO
YOU ASK?

I'M
NOT SURE.









LOTHAR --
I DIDN'T MEAN --

I'M SORRY, BOSS
IT'S JUST THAT --
-- YOU ARE RIGHT
I THINK DAJAN MIGHT
HAVE GOTTEN IN OVER
HIS HEAD

WHAT DO
YOU MEAN?

DAJAN HAS ALWAYS
BEEN A HARD WORKER BUT
THERE ARE THINGS IN THE
COUNTRY -- VICES THAT CAN
SOMETIMES GET THE
BETTER OF MEN

DAJAN RAN AFOL
OF SOME GAMBLERS ONCE HE
BECAME OBSESSED WITH GAMES
OF CHANCE. ALWAYS WANTING TO
MAKE A QUICK BUCK.

BUT A BIOCHEMIST
MAKES GOOD MONEY

I DON'T
UNDERSTAND

NOT AS MUCH
AS OTHER PROFESSIONS
SO I AM TOLD

THE AHEEDAH
ROOT HAS MORE
THAN JUST MEDICINAL
PROPERTIES. IN ITS
PURE FORM, IT CAN
CAUSE GREAT
HALLUCINATIONS

WHOEVER THESE
MEN ARE, WE HAVE
TO STOP THEM.

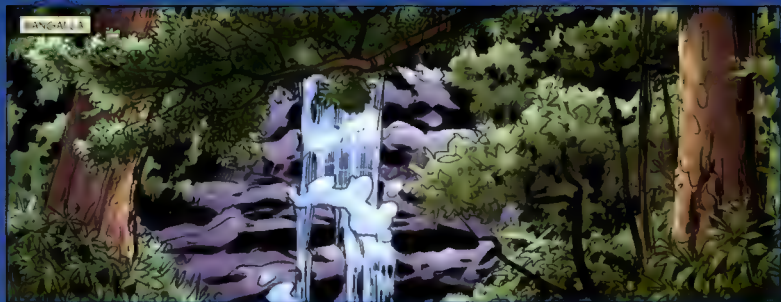
A SUBSTANCE
THAT WOULD BE OF
GREAT USE TO A
PHARMACEUTICAL
COMPANY

OR ON
THE STREETS

BUT HOW?
WE DON'T EVEN KNOW
WHO THEY ARE

NOT YET...

...BUT IT LOOKS
LIKE WE MAY HAVE
TO TAKE THAT "VACATION"
AFTER ALL.





I WILL RETURN
THE FAVOR...

WITH INTEREST.





HEH HEH...
THE GHOST WHO
WALKS

LET'S TEST
THAT THEORY.



YOU'RE MAKING
A BIG MISTAKE.

NEVER POINT A GUN AT THE PHANTOM
- OLD JUNGLE SAYING

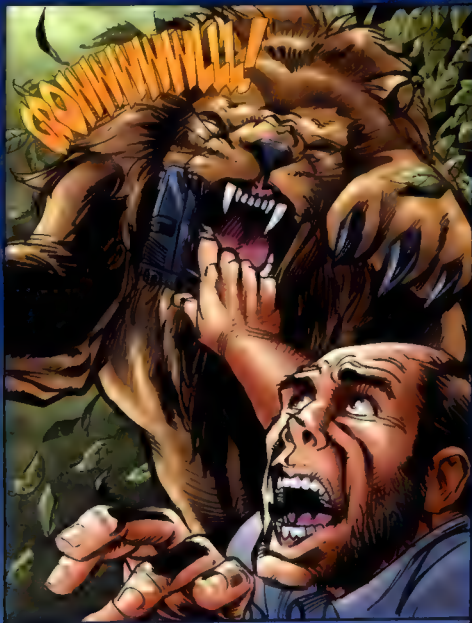


YEAH? AND
WHY IS THAT?

LOOK
BEHIND YOU



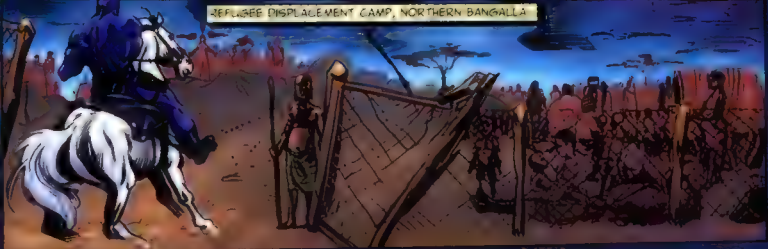
YOU'RE
PATHETIC



RRRROOOWWWW!!









YOU BETTER BE
LEADING US THE RIGHT
WAY, OLD MAN, OR YOUR
DEATH WON'T COME
SOON ENOUGH



I'M SURE YOU
KNOW OF OTHER
USES FOR THE AHEEDAH
WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF
WE WERE TO MIX IT
WITH KHAT?

WHY MUST YOU
CIVILIZED MEN SEEK
TO UNDO THE THREADS
OF YOUR LIVES?



HOW MANY
VARIANTS OF
POLYPODIOPHYTA
HAVE YOU CATALOGED
HERE?

WHY CATALOG
THAT WHICH GROWS
ABUNDANTLY?

"WHY?", TO
SHARE THE
KNOWLEDGE WITH
THE REST OF
CIVILIZATION,
OF COURSE

YOU TWO EGGSHEADS
SHUT UP AND KEEP
MARCHING!



YES, BECAUSE
KNOWLEDGE OF
THE AHEEDAH HAS
DONE SO MUCH
FOR "CIVILIZATION"

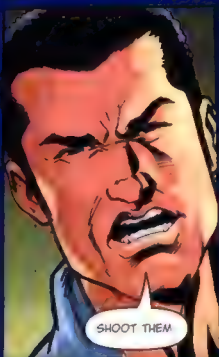


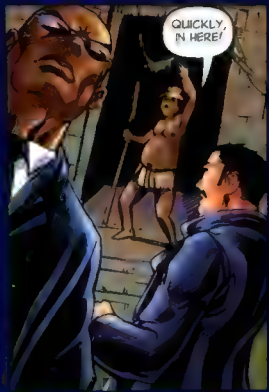
THIS WAY!

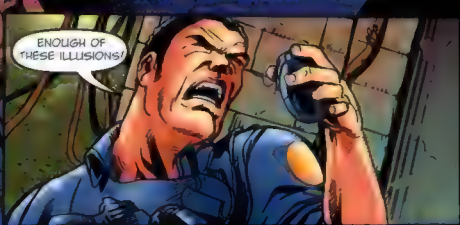
RAAAHHHHH!!!

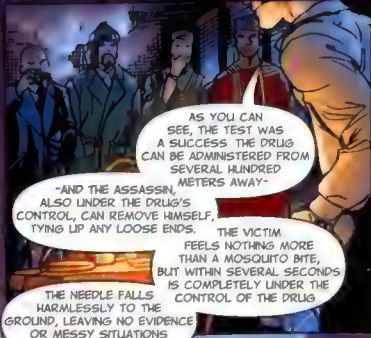
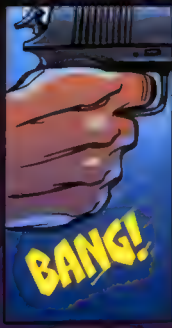
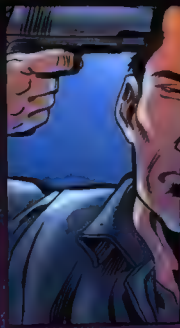
RATATATAT TAT







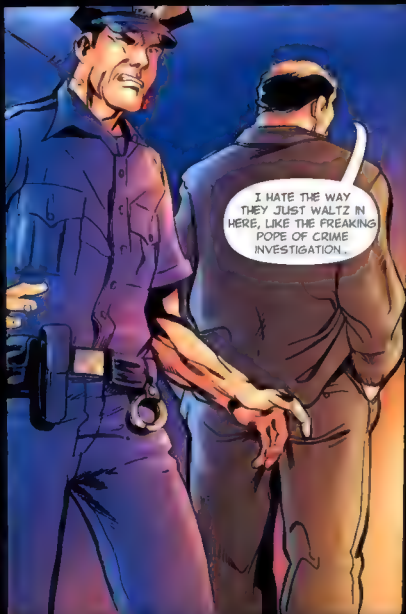




NOW GENTLEMAN, I HOPE THIS DEMONSTRATION WILL SATISFY YOUR CURIOSITY. MR. LOCKE WILL BE PLEASED TO HEAR OF YOUR ALLEGIANCE

YOU HAVE PROVEN YOU CAN CONTROL THE WEAK MINDED, BUT WHAT OF THE SORT OF MAN WHO LEADS NATIONS?

YES, YES. CAN YOUR DRUG CONTROL THAT SORT OF MAN? WE NEED PROOF







SO, WHO IS
THIS RANDAL ASH
ANYWAY?

HE'S THE MUSCLE
OF ONE ARTHUR LOCKE,
CEO OF THE LOCKE
CORPORATION.

WHY WOULD
A COMPANY WANT
TO KILL MY
COUSIN?

GOOD QUESTION.
LOCKE USES THE COMPANY
AS A FRONT FOR HIS VARIOUS
DEALINGS. INSIDER TRADING, PRICE FIXING,
CONTROLLING A FEW THIRD WORLD
NATIONS THROUGH PUPPET
GOVERNMENTS.



ON PAPER THEY SEEM
LEGIT. BEHIND THE SCENES IS
A DIFFERENT STORY. LOCKE IS OUT
FOR WORLD DOMINATION THROUGH FISCAL
AND SOCIO-POLITICAL MEANS. FAR CLEANER
THAN ARMES AND WEAPONS, ALTHOUGH
HE HAS BEEN LINKED TO VARIOUS
GUN RUNNERS.

LOCKE PREFERS THE
"WHITE COLLAR" SORT OF
CRIMES, THOUGH. HE ALREADY
CONTROLS MUCH OF OPEC
AND RECENTLY TRIED TO GET
HIS HANDS INTO THE
DIAMOND INDUSTRY.



IF GURAN
IS CORRECT, AND
HE ALWAYS IS, THE
AHEEDAH CAN BE USED
TO CREATE A MIND
CONTROL DRUG.

AND IN THE HANDS
OF A MAN SUCH AS
YOU DESCRIBE, THE SKY'S
THE LIMIT FOR WHAT HE
COULD USE THAT FOR...

SLAVE LABOR,
POLITICAL FIGURES, EVEN
DISPOSABLE ASSASSINS.
THIS ISN'T GOOD.



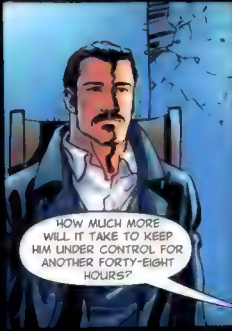
YES, NOT GOOD AT
ALL. SLIP ANYONE A DOSE
OF THE AHEEDAH AND THAT
PERSON COULD BE PROGRAMMED,
CONTROLLED AND ACTIVATED TO
DO ANYTHING AT ANY TIME.

AND ONCE THE
DRUG WEARS OFF, THEY
HAVE NO MEMORY OF THEIR
ACTIONS WHILE UNDER
ITS INFLUENCE.









HOW MUCH MORE
WILL IT TAKE TO KEEP
HIM UNDER CONTROL FOR
ANOTHER FORTY-EIGHT
HOURS?

I THINK WE'VE
MANAGED TO MAGNIFY
THE CONCENTRATION
SO THAT ONE DOSE WILL KEEP
HIM UNDER WRAPS FOR ABOUT
A DAY, DEPENDING ON HIS
METABOLIC RATE, HEART
RATE ETC

SO, IF
HE REMAINS
CALM, TWO DOSES
SHOULD HOLD
HIM?

EXACTLY.
KEEPING HIS
HEART RATE DOWN
IS KEY



ARTHUR WILL
BE VERY PLEASED.
FIRST, WE KILLED
THE PHANTOM-

THEN ENSLAVED
MANDRAKE THE
MAGICIAN THAT'S
A GOOD DAY IN
MY BOOK



WITH MANDRAKE AS AN
ASSASSIN, WE CAN CONVINCE
VICTIMS THEY WERE UNDER ATTACK,
DROWNING, FALLING TO THEIR DEATHS
OR ANY NUMBER OF OTHER
GRUESOME ENDS

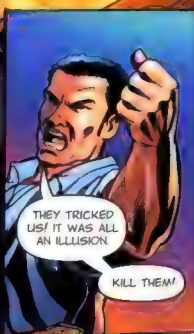
AND WITH THE
POWER OF THEIR OWN
MINDS, YOU COULD
LITERALLY SCARE PEOPLE
TO DEATH.



I LIKE
THE SOUND
OF THAT









DON'T LET THEM FOLLOW ME, IT'S TIME FOR PLAN B.



YOU CAN'T OUT RUN YOUR FATE, ASH.



YOU CAN'T HIDE FROM JUDGMENT, ASH.



THERE'S NOWHERE LEFT TO HIDE, ASH. THE GHOSTS OF YOUR PAST WILL HAUNT YOUR EVERY STEP.

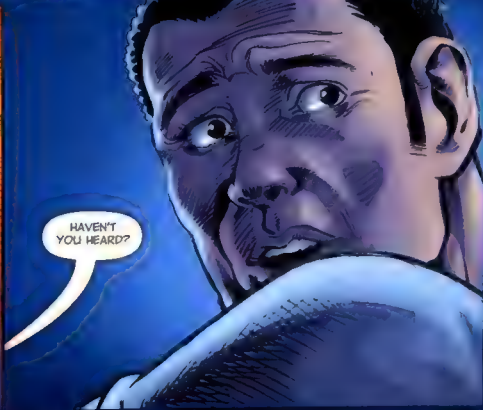


YOUR PARENTS MUST BE AVENGED. AS MUST ALL THE OTHERS YOU'VE KILLED.

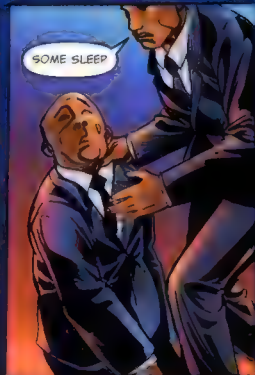
N-NO!

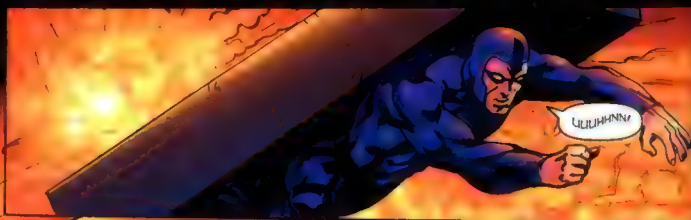


DIE!

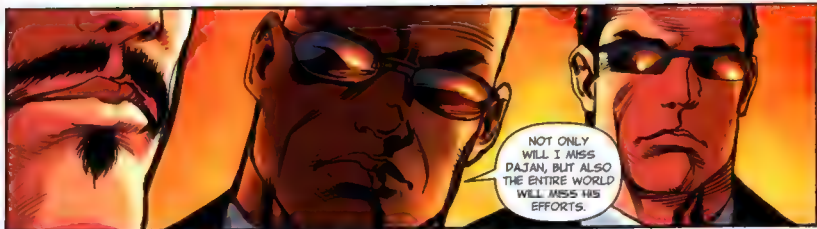


HAVEN'T YOU HEARD?











I'VE GIVEN ORDERS TO GURAN-



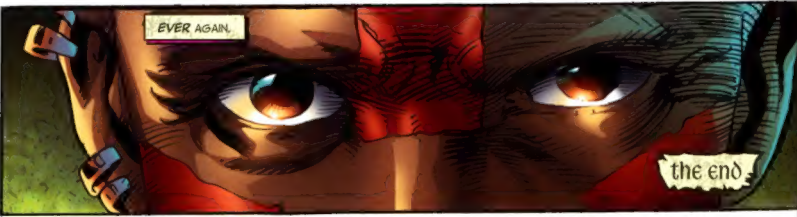
THAT WILL ENSURE THE TEMPLE GROUNDS-



WILL NEVER BE DISTURBED-



BY OUTSIDERS-



EVER AGAIN.

the end

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